(ग) वर्ष 1996-97 के दौरान सुरक्षा प्रबन्धों पर 27 करोड़ रुपए की राशि खर्च किए जाने का अनुमान है। 1996-97 के बजट अनुमान में इसके लिए 1 करोड़ रुपए का प्रावधान किया गया है। अपेक्षित अतिरिक्त राशि को अनुपूरक अनुदान से पूरा किया जाएगा।

Number of employees per plane engaged by IA and AI

2358. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1018 given in the Rajya Sabha on 23rd July, 1996 and state:

(a) what is the number of employees per IA and AI plane; and

(b) what is the number of employees per plane engaged in leading airlines of the world?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) The number of employees per aircraft in Indian Airlines and Air India is 397 and 715 respectively.

(b) As on 31.12.1995, the number of employees per aircraft of selected airlines of the world is an under:-

Name of Airline	No. of Employees per Aircraft
Aeroflot	110
Air Canada	157
Air France	239
Alitalia	121
American Airlines	131
British Airways	219
Cathey Pacific	259
Delta Airlines	123
Garuda	182
Japan Airlines	162
Lufthansa	124
MAS	211
Northwest Airlines	120
PIA	455
Saudi Arabian Airlines	219
Singapore Airlines	194
Swiss Air	269
Thai Airways	300
United Airlines	146

Net Bank credit to Agriculture by Commercial Banks

2359. MISS. SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all the commercial banks in the country are required to grant at least eighteen per cent of their net bank credit to agriculture;

(b) if so, whether all the commercial banks have achieved the stipulated target during the last three years;

(c) if not, which are the banks who have not achieved the target, bank-wise and year-wise; and

(d) what action Government propose to take to ensure that every bank positively grants at least 18 per cent of its net bank credit to agriculture?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Domestic banks both in public and private sectors are required to lend at least 18 per cent of their Net Bank Credit to Agriculture. The target is, however, not applicable to foreign banks in view of the lack of branchnet-work in rural areas. The names of banks which have not achieved the target of 18 per cent lending to agriculture during the last three years are given in the Annexure. [See Appendix 178, Annexure 52]

(d) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has advised all scheduled commercial banks to make every effort to achieve the stipulated target of 18 per cent for lending to agriculture. Public and private sector banks which had not reached the agricultural lending target of 18 per cent of net bank credit as at the end of December 1994 and March 1994 respectively were required to make contributions to the Rural Infrastructural Development Fund (RIDF) equivalent to the shortfall subject to a maximum of 1.5 per cent of Net Bank Credit in achieving the aforesaid target. The following additional steps have been taken to ensure enhanced flow of credit to agricultural sector:

(i) Simplified applications forms have been made available which are also in Regional languages.

(ii) Prescription of scales of finance for crop loans as worked out by the technical committees constituted in each district for various crops and their uniform adoption by banks.

(iii) Disposal of loan applications upto Rs. 25,000/- within a fortnight and those over Rs. 25,000/- within eight to nine weeks.

(iv) Delegation of appropriate sanctioning powers to rural branch managers so that majority of loan applications from weaker sections are sanctioned at branch level itself.

(v) Liberal guidelines in regard to requirement of collateral security by way of mortage of land/charge on land or third party guarantee.

(vi) No margin is required for agricultural loans upto Rs. 10,000/- for short term, medium/long term.

(vii) The public sector banks have introduced the Agricultural Credit Card for farmers with good track record which enables farmers to secure production credit instantly and dispense with procedural formalities;

(viii) To ensure timely and adequate credit for sustaining agricultural production, banks have been asked to extend a flexible line of credit in the form of cash credit facility which would meet their composite credit requirements.

(ix) Banks have been asked to finance high-tech activities like aquaculture, floriculture, tissue-culture, bio-technology, etc.; and

(x) Banks have been asked to draw up special credit plans with a view to acheiving a distinct and marked improvement in the flow of credit to agriculture.

Evasion of excise duty by corporates and PSUs

2360. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a newsitem published in the Financial Express, New Delhi edition dated 30th July, 1996 captioned "Top Corporates, PSUs lead in MODVAT evasion".;

(b) if so, the top ten corporates and PSUs leading in evasion of excise duty during 1996-97 as compared to 1995-96 indicating total loss to the exchequer on this account; and

(c) what remedial measures Government have taken so far to check this alarming trend of excise evasion rise amongst such corporates, PSUs and SSIs?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBRAM): (a) to (c) The information is being collected from all the Commissionerates and will be placed before the House after compilation.

Increase in import duty on paper

2361. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to impose 40 per cent import duty on paper as against the existing duty of 20 per cent;

(b) if not, whether Government are considering to allow import of paper without any duty;

(c) whether Government are considering to remove actual user condition presently imposed on the paper industry for imported waste paper and pulp; and

(d) whether Government are also considering to give exemption to State text book corporations from payment of excise duty for the relief of educational sector?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Some representations have been received for increasing the basic customs duty on paper and paperboard from 20% to 40%. These are under examination by the Government.

(c) At present, the actual use condition applies only to wood pulp imported for the manufacture of newsprint. There is no proposal under consideration to remove this condition.

(d) In the Union Budget, 1996, full exemption from excise duty has been extended to specified writing and printing paper supplied by a paper mill to State Textbook Corporations/